



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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Trails Improvements to Begin at Saguaro National Park

With the approval this past summer of Saguaro National Park's Comprehensive Trails Management Plan, the park is now set to begin implementing changes called for in the plan. Park Superintendent Darla Sidles commented, "We're grateful for the tremendous public involvement received during the planning process. We're now anxious to get started with the on-the-ground work to enhance our trail system."

Using a variety of funding sources, these changes will be phased in over a period of several years. The park is also committed to working with a variety of partners and volunteers. Saguaro National Park recently entered into a cooperative agreement with the Arizona Trail Association for construction and maintenance of Saguaro's portion of the Arizona Trail. Other community groups and organizations have pledged their support as well.

Some of the work planned for the next five months (November 2009 through March 2010) includes:

Rincon Mountain District

- Develop/implement new sign plan for Cactus Forest Trails
- Construct Ernie's Falls Trail
- Construct Bajada Vista connector trail
- Consolidate undesigned redundant/parallel trails, restore as needed (eastern end of Bajada Vista, Palo Verde, Freight Wagon, Wagon Spur, and the section of the Wentworth Trail between the Kennedy and Garwood Trails)
- Convert the Converse Trail (formerly eastern most section of the Wentworth Trail) to hiker only
- Begin construction of the Quilter Trail (Arizona Trail connection from Hope Camp to the Manning Camp Trail)
- Eliminate the North Hope Camp Trail, restore as needed
- Construct the Loma Verde Trail re-route
- Construct the Pink Hill re-route
- Construct connector trail from Hope Camp to the southern boundary (connecting to the AZ Trail)

Tucson Mountain District

- Develop/implement new sign plan for district's northeast corner (near Continental Ranch Reserve)
- Begin signing designated trails and access points for the district's northeast corner
- Begin restoring undesigned social trails in the district's northeast corner
- Convert Wild Dog Trail to hiker only
- Construct Signal Hill re-route, including new hitch rail
- Convert Cactus Wren and Manville Trails to multi-use trails (hikers *and* equestrians)
- Begin construction of Prophecy-Picture Rocks Wash connector trail

Saguaro will be hosting a series of volunteer trail maintenance days from February through April, to be announced early next year. Throughout this multi-year process, please visit the park's webpage at www.nps.gov/sagu/parkmgmt/trails.htm for periodic updates on trail work in both districts.